



# Department of Justice

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## **FINAL TWO CO-DEFENDANTS PLEAD GUILTY IN 2009 TROY HOME INVASION CASE**

**MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA**— Anthony Perrie Turner, 24, and Kendrick Katrell Thomas, 25, both of Clayton, Alabama, appeared in federal district court yesterday afternoon and pled guilty to their role in a home invasion that took place in Troy, Alabama, in October of 2009, U.S. Attorney Leura G. Canary announced today.

In a plea hearing held before Federal Magistrate Judge Terry F. Moorner, both men admitted that they, along with Thomas's older brother, Ronald Demarkus Thomas, 26, had forced their way into a residence occupied by six people and demanded money and car keys at gunpoint. Several of the victims were beaten and pistol-whipped and two women inside the residence were sexually assaulted during the commission of the crime. The three assailants then fled the scene in the victims' car. Acting on information they obtained from the victims, detectives with the Troy Police Department located and arrested all three men the following day.

It is a federal crime to take a motor vehicle from another person by force, violence, and intimidation, with the intent to cause death or serious bodily harm. Federal law also prohibits the use of a firearm during and in furtherance of a carjacking – a crime punishable by up to life in prison. It was to these crimes, along with a general conspiracy count, that Turner and Kendrick Thomas pled guilty. A date for their sentencing has not been set.

"The defendants preyed upon these victims while in the sanctity of their home, which should be safe for all citizens," Canary stated. "The U.S. Attorney's Office is committed to prosecuting these violent crimes and will not tolerate such reprehensible conduct."

Ronald Thomas, who was charged in the same indictment, had previously pled guilty and agreed to testify against his co-defendants, if necessary. He was sentenced last month by United States District Judge W. Keith Watkins to serve 24 years behind bars, followed by five years of supervised release.

All three men still face a pending state prosecution in Pike County for their actions.

The investigation of this case was conducted by Special Agent Jennifer Rudden-Conway of the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, acting in concert with officers of the Troy Police Department. Troy Chief of Police Anthony C. Everage stated, "On

behalf of the City of Troy police Department, I would like to express our gratitude to the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the U.S. Attorney's Office, Middle District of Alabama, for their hard work and commitment in seeing that these individuals were held accountable for this heinous crime and that justice was served for the victims in this case."

Assistant United States Attorneys Nathan D. Stump and Brandon K. Essig are prosecuting the case on behalf of the United States.